

1. (Twice Amended) A process for dewatering a slurry of hydrophilic particulate material comprising:

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- i) hydrophobizing said material using a high hydrophile-lipophile balance (HLB) surfactant;
 - ii) adding a nonionic surfactant of HLB number less than 15 dissolved in at least one organic solvent;
 - iii) agitating said slurry to allow for said nonionic surfactant to adsorb on the surface of said material so that its hydrophobicity is further increased; and
 - iv) subjecting the agitated slurry containing said material to a mechanical method of dewatering.

2. (Twice Amended) The process of claim 1 wherein said particulate material comprises particles of less than 2 mm in size.

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8. (Twice Amended) The process of claim 1 wherein said hydrophobizing step comprises rendering said material hydrophobic, so that its water contact angle is increased to less than 90°.

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12. (Twice Amended) The process of claim 11 wherein said low HLB surfactant is blended with a vegetable, fish or animal oil containing triacylglycerides and the biodiesel derived from these oils.

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14. (Amended) The process of claim 1 wherein said high HLB surfactant has a polar head configured to interact with the surface of said particulate material.

15. (Twice Amended) The process of claim 1 wherein said high HLB surfactant is selected from the group consisting of thiols and xanthates for sulfide minerals.

67. (Twice Amended) A process for dewatering a slurry of hydrophobic particulate material comprising:

- B6
- i) adding hydrocarbon oils to increase the hydrophobicity of said hydrophobic particulate material;
 - ii) adding a nonionic surfactant of hydrophile-lipophile balance (HLB) number less than 15 dissolved in at least one organic solvent;
 - iii) agitating said slurry to allow for said nonionic surfactant to adsorb on the surface of said material so that its hydrophobicity is further increased; and
 - iv) subjecting the agitated slurry containing said material to a mechanical method of dewatering.

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68. (Twice Amended) The process for claim 67 wherein said particulate material comprises particles of less than 2mm in size.

Please add new claims 72-73 as follows:

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72. The process of claim 13, wherein said light hydrocarbon oils are selected from diesel oil, kerosene, gasoline, petroleum distillate, turpentine, naphthanic oils, vegetable oils, and biodiesel.

73. The process of claim 13, wherein said short-chain alcohols have carbon atom numbers less than eight.

REMARKS

Responsive to the Final Action mailed August 7, 2002, and in furtherance of the discussion between Applicants' attorney and the Examiner on September 19, 2002, Applicant makes the present amendment in an effort to place the claims in a condition for allowance. Entry of the present amendment and consideration of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

*Substantive
Revised
OK
10/24/02*
Applicant and his attorney thank the Examiner for the privilege of the telephonic interview conducted on September 19, 2002. The claims have been amended to